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Wiki Assignment #1

Seminar in Applied Theory and Research 1

CBSE 7201T

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**Action Research** is a method that a researcher uses in order to help resolve difficulties that are faced in an academic setting. Through analyzing and collecting data the researcher can create a resolution for a problem being faced in education. The problems that are being solved are focused on the improvement of students’ education and how educators can help students reach their highest potential. This form of research helps develop the form of teaching methods and creates an environment that constantly improving.

* **Defining the problem- discuss the need for intervention.**

While observing several schools I have noticed the lack of programs that make reading enjoyable. Reading has become a laboring task. Students are less inclined to read. Reading does not provide them with the instant gratification that they receive through video games and the internet. If parents can volunteer their time before or after school to read with children, it will motivate students to read for pleasure. By creating book clubs students will be able to choose a club that interests them. This will also welcome the opportunity for students ranging from many different reading levels to read from the same text and work together to interpret the reading.

* **Is it Researchable?**

There are several past studies that analyze the ways that parents or guardians’ involvement can create great benefits in their child’s education. The articles that I have found have shown that students become more engaged in school because of the involvement of their family members.

* **Prior Research?**

Expanding the day for students is important. Students in the United States spend less time in school than other developed countries. Having more time in an academic setting helps students focus and helps reinforce the importance of education. Reading to children will also help students read subjects that are not included in the school’s curriculum.

* **Pros and Cons:**

Pros of having parents involved in school, helps to reinforce students the importance of education and reading. This will also help parents observe how their children read in a public setting. Increasing the time that students have reading will increase their reading level and prepare them for the following grades. A con that I saw reflected in Brower’s article was the lack of parent involvement in high- minority and high-poverty schools. The school that I will be working with is high-minority, and low/middle-income families. Through this article I observed that there will be several challenges in having parents become involved at the school. Some parents will not have the opportunity to become involved due to work schedules. Another problem that I might face is the high number of non-documented parents. Since, they are undocumented it is impossible for them to work with other students without having a proper background check. I hope that all parents will welcome the opportunity to take a day or two to from their busy schedules to assist children in their reading.

* **Current Instruction Strategies?**

The school that I will be conducting action research currently has an afterschool program that is only for students that need extra help in reading and math. They are tested constantly and don’t have time to enjoy what they learn.

School has a parent coordinator

* Practitioners/ Theorists? Name at least two sources.

Joyce L. Epstein and Steven B. Sheldon: Epstein's 6 Types of Involvement

Kirsi Tirri: Measuring Multiple Intelligences and Moral Sensitivities in Education

* **What is the proposed intervention?**

A way in which a school can counteract this lack of reading is by asking parents to volunteer their time to read to children before or after school. Groups can be assigned by reading levels or through reading interests. Creating a school- family- community, will help students that are minorities and low-income. Having parents more involved in their children’s schools will help create a community setting. Parents will interact more with teachers and their children’s peers.

* **How will you define (construct) measure your intervention?**

This intervention will help students increase their reading levels. It can be assessed through the improvement in school exams, both math and reading. Since, math exams incorporate several reading components, teachers can evaluate any fluctuations. Parents can take surveys and answer questions: Has your child spent less time watching television? How often does your child read a week? Has your involvement in school created a closer bond between you and your child? By being involved in your child’s school have you spent more time at home helping your child? How often does your child visit the local library? Where does your child usually read? If you have several children, how have they been affected by your child’s interest in reading? I would also asses the involvement between girls and boys that are willing to participate in a book club.

**Work Cited**

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